

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 remain in the application. Claims 3, 5 and 14 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 are cancelled.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging and considering the Information Disclosure Statement previously filed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over US Patent 4,976,721 to Blasnik, et al.

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 are cancelled hereby, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-23 stand allowed as originally presented.

Claims 3-11 and 14-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 5 and 14 are so rewritten. Claims 3, 5 and 14 are therefore now believed to be allowable.

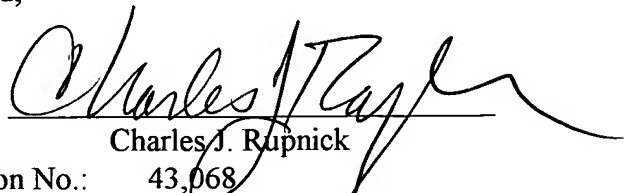
Claims 4, 6-11 and 15-17 are believed to be allowable as depending from a now allowable base claim.

The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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